

Personal and Social News

There was a children's party at the Country Club this afternoon. Mrs. A. K. Thompson and Mrs. George Hennessey had charge of the entertainment. There is a gorgeous Christmas tree, Santa Claus and presents for all of the children present.

The Argonauts will give a dance at the Hammond Country club Tuesday evening. All of the High school alumni are cordially invited to attend.

The Girls Athletic Club gave a pageant at the High school yesterday afternoon entitled "Trimming the Tree." Mrs. Reynolds the gym teacher was the coach. It was very much enjoyed by all of the students and faculty.

The F. R. Motts of Hohman street are entertaining at a family dinner at their home tomorrow. The out of town guests will be Miss Mary Elizabeth Wilson and James Wilson of Indianapolis.

Margaret McHale arrived from Purdue yesterday to spend the holidays with her family. Mr. and Mrs. H. M. McHale of Hohman street.

Miss Mildred Wells of Van Buren street, assisted by Miss Ruth Bradford entertained their Sunday school class, games were played and a nicely arranged luncheon was served. The guests included Maine and Mary Katherine Barnhart, Truth Purdy, Ara Whitaker, Martha and Alice Burns, Jane Tuley, Charlotte Compton and Florence Anderson.

Mrs. Mary Hemstock of Valparaiso, Ind., Mrs. Joseph Hemstock, Jr., and Mrs. Joseph Hemstock, Sr., of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., will be Yuletide guests at the home of Mrs. Harriet Walker of Park Place.

Nancy and Margaret Hagedorn will go to Fort Wayne, Ind., tomorrow to be the guest of their auntie, Mrs. M. H. George of that city.

Winifred Twiley who has been on the sick list for the past few days is improved.

Judge Barnett who has had the influenza is able to be out again.

A son, Raymond Edgar Peterson, born to Mr. and Mrs. Peterson of 450 Summer boulevard. Both mother and baby doing nicely.

Mrs. George Orcutt and daughter Margaret of Boston who have been the house guests of Mr. and Mrs. Farley Dunbar of Rimbach avenue for the past week left last night for California where they will make their future home.

Miss Ethel Lechlin has been on the sick list for the past week.

Miss Roland Stinson who has been visiting in Hammond for the past two weeks has returned to her home in Missouri for Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Bowen have as their Yuletide guest their daughter Margaret of Kansas.

Valeria Cox who is attending boarding school at Kankakee is home for the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cox of 315 West State street.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Howell and sons Earl and Orville will be guests at dinner tomorrow at a friends' reunion at the Hotel Morrison, Chicago. Following the dinner there will be a theater party.

Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Powley announce the approaching marriage of their niece Mrs. Edna B. Jacobs to Dr. Albert J. Wachter tomorrow, Christmas day, December 25, at their home, 428 Eaton street. Mrs. Jacobs is a twin daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James of Bloomington Ill. For the past few years Mrs. Jacobs has made her home with her aunt, she is an accomplished

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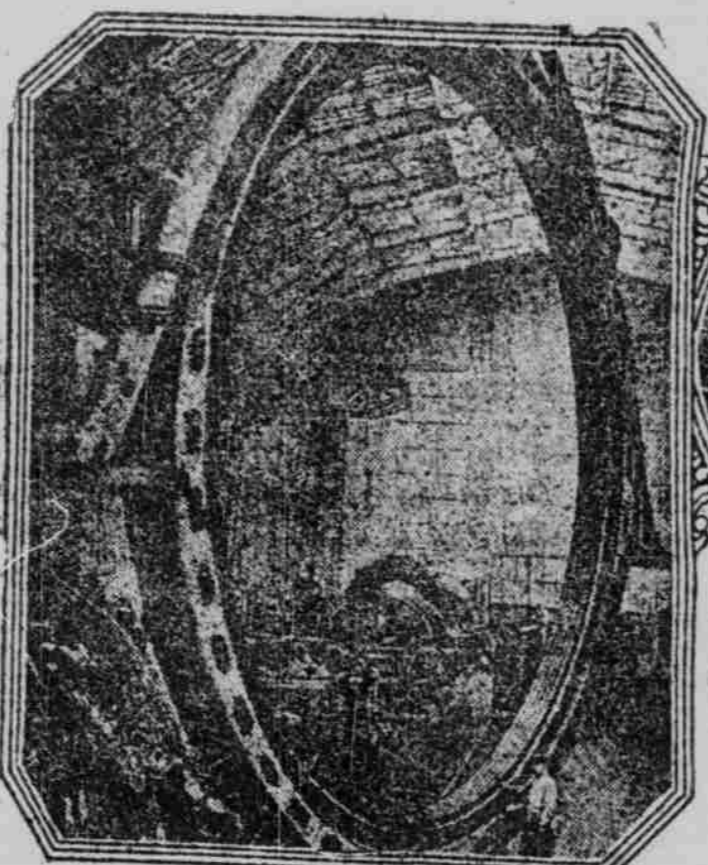
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That scarce article—Genuine Franklin County Coal. I have it in three sizes. "Dibos the Coal Man." 12-21-23-24

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Shall Uncle Sam Scrap His Umbrella



By GARRET SMITH.

SHOULD a man, caught in a heavy shower without an umbrella and forced to buy one, as soon as he thinks the shower is over, break up the umbrella and drop it in the nearest rubbish can?

In other words, should the United States, having learned during the World War a much needed lesson in military preparedness, slump back again into its old defenseless state?

To say that Uncle Sam was caught recently practically without umbrellas in a heavy shower and that he succeeded in buying on short notice and at great cost a pretty good assortment of these protectors is old stuff.

Now there is a pretty general feeling that these umbrellas should be preserved and kept ready for use. Certainly that is the purpose of the War Department. But that purpose seems to be not entirely clear in the minds of some of our citizens.

The particular umbrella in question is the ammunition supply, specifically the domestic production of nitrates for the manufacture of high explosives.

Now modern explosives are divided into two classes, propellants for hurling projectiles and high explosives for bursting bombs

or shells. Both classes are nitrogen compounds and require nitric acid for their manufacture. So it can be seen readily enough that any nation that is not equipped to produce an abundant supply of nitric acid within its own territory is minus a pretty important military umbrella in case of a sudden heavy war shower.

The Government, therefore, when we became involved in the World War, found it necessary to provide for the manufacture of a quantity of nitrate within our own territory. Adopting a process by which nitrates for fertilizer purposes were being made from the atmosphere by an American Company, the Government contracted with the Air Nitrates Corporation, which had been formed for the purpose, to build a

plant at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, on the Tennessee River, for the manufacture of ammonium nitrate, an explosive for bursting bombs and shells. On this site in less than a year was completed and put into operation a huge ammonium nitrate plant, the largest in the world, at a cost of over \$50,000,000.

Now, part of the process of manufacturing ammonium nitrate is identical with part of that used in manufacturing a valuable fertilizer ingredient. The suggestion has been made, therefore, that the plant be used during peace times for the manufacture of fertilizer materials and kept in good running condition, ready for its original use at any time with a minimum of alterations.

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